discharge of organic matter, a necessary first step in restoring the water quality has been achieved to a fair level under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. It is also mentioned that the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I as conceived and implemented is an appropriate programme for application to other river basins. Some shortcomings of the programme were also brought out in the evaluation report and have been taken note of for suitable modification in the subsequent river action plan. These include reduction of discharge of organic matter, regular cleaning of sewage and interception structures constructed under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, regular training for the staff posted at all levels, resource recovery options to be analysed etc.

A cost benefit analysis of the Ganga Action Plan phase-I was also undertaken by a reputed expert from Harvard Institute of International Development in collaboration with local Indian Institutes viz. Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. The study broadly concluded that inspite of its many shortcomings the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has delivered significant benefits to India. The polluted stretch of the river violating the bathing class standards would have been atleast 740 kms between Kannauj and Varanasi as compared to 437 kms between the same towns with the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. In terms of both cost and time taken, the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I compares favourably with those of the other major rivers of the world. The study has concluded that the internal rate of return of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I is well above 10% required of public sector projects.

(c) The scheme of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which was started in 1985 has been closed with effect from 31.3.2000. However, the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan covering rivers Yamuna, Gomati, Damodar and the main stem of Ganga approved between April 1993 and October 1996 is presently under implementation and is likely to be completed by the end of 10th Plan.

Environmental clearance to Guru Gobind Singh Oil, Refinery

3693. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental approval for the crude oil terminal, pipeline and single point mooring for setting up of Guru Goind Singh Oil Refinery in Punjab is lying pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in according clearance; and

(c) by when approval/clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Poaching of adult male wild elephants in Orissa

3694. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been large scale poaching of adult male wild elephants in Orissa for ivory trade since 1990;

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop these activities;

(c) the number of adult male wild tuskers of breeding age alive in Orissa at present as per the 1999 census; and

(d) whether the male-female sex ratio of wild elephants has been severely damaged in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. 103 male elephants have been poached in Orissa since 1990.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to stop these activities are as given below:

(i) Regular patrolling of elephant areas.

(ii) Installation of VHF stations with mobile facility for better communication of protection work.

(iii) Formation of antipoaching mobile squad.

(iv) Installation of antipoaching checkgates at strategic and sensitive points.

(v) Provision of secret funds for collection of intelligence of poachers and their activities.

(vi) Elephant is included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which provides full protection against hunting & commercial exploitation.